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'Warm' Response to Appeal

Thank You, Foster Parents

David Woodsworth, director of the family and children's service, yesterday expressed sincere thanks for the "warm response" to an appeal for more foster parents for children needing care.

The appeal was made in a Colonist story earlier this month.

Mr. Woodsworth said 45 new applications had been received, 26 for pre-school-age children and seven for babies.

Only 12 applications had been made, however, for school or teen-age children. Mr. Woodsworth said he would like to "reverse that proportion."

Many people still think of the agency as some sort of a "pool" where they can apply for a specific type of child, he said. In reality, it is seeking a pool or list of persons who would be willing to give a home to a child from any age group as the "need might suddenly arise," he explained.

He said that people are often shocked when asked to take a "problem" teen-ager instead of the child of their choice. But these teen-agers, most of whom come from broken homes, need all the love and help they can get.

Mr. Woodsworth also thanked the many clubs and PTA organizations who asked for speakers on the subject, and the members of the Victoria and Arbutus Toastmistress Clubs who took care of the request for speakers.

We'll Donate One-Third Cost Of Auditorium, Says Bennett

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Holding A Carrot —Edgelow

Ald. Geoffrey Edgelow last night accused Premier Bennett of "holding out a carrot" of federal aid for construction of an auditorium for Victoria.

"I think the premier has always been sincere in wanting to see Victoria get an auditorium," said Ald. Edgelow. "But there is no sense in holding out some sort of carrot when he knows the federal government would never start building auditoriums all over Canada."

MATCHING GRANTS

Premier Bennett told the legislature yesterday the provincial government will pay one-third of the cost of a civic auditorium if the federal government and the city of Victoria will pay matching one-third grants.

"We have a similar arrangement with Vancouver," the premier said.

However, Vancouver city clerk Ron Thompson told The Daily Colonist by phone last night that no federal or provincial grants were received for the $4,500,000 civic auditorium which is nearing completion there.

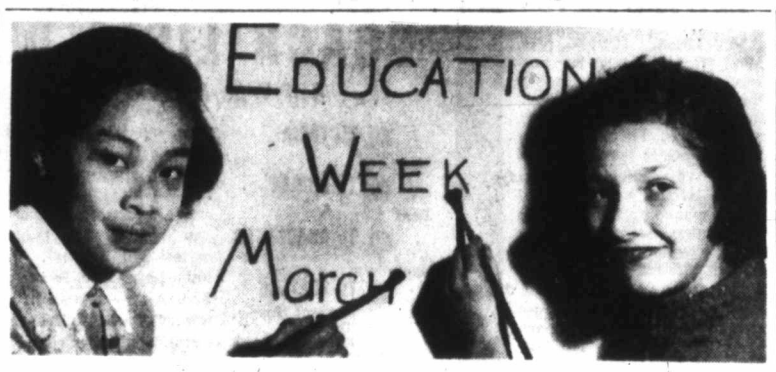
The bulk of the money was raised by sale of bonds, and a small amount was taken out of surplus revenue funds. The project was part of the city's last five-year-plan.

SEEMED PUZZLED

Ald. Edgelow said he didn't see what bearing a civic auditorium for Victoria or any other city had on the federal government. He seemed puzzled by the premier's statement.

"I want to say this—Premier Bennett has always shown willingness to co-operate and help us with an auditorium and he should be commended for this," he said.

Ald. Edgelow is chairman of a trust committee holding $12,500 turned over by the Greater Victoria Centennial Committee for construction of an auditorium.



School Welcome Next Week

Putting final touches to poster welcoming parents and friends to Education Week open house in Victoria area schools next week are North Ward School pupils Maureen Chan, 9, of 720 Pembroke, and Genevieve Thiebaut, 11, of 850 Cormorant.—(Colonist photo)

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Hinges On City, Ottawa

The provincial government will pay one-third the cost of a civic auditorium for Victoria if the federal government and city of Victoria will pay matching one-third grants, Premier Bennett said yesterday.

He was answering a challenge made in the legislature by Donald Smith (SC, Victoria), who pointed out the premier once said the government would be prepared to match a portion of the costs of an auditorium.

"We want to know if the offer is still good, how long it is good for, and how much it is good for?" Mr. Smith said.

NOT MUCH FAITH

George Gregory (Lib., Victoria) told the premier he didn't have much faith in the federal government now and asked if the premier would pay one-third the cost of an auditorium if Victoria paid two-thirds.

"No. We have a similar arrangement with Vancouver. I suggest you get working on your federal members," the premier said.

FOR SOME TIME

"Well, I guess we won't see our auditorium for some time," Mr. Gregory said.

Mr. Smith indicated to the premier that the offer was only a starting point for bargaining with the provincial government.

"Oh no! Oh no!" said the premier.

ORIGINAL OFFER

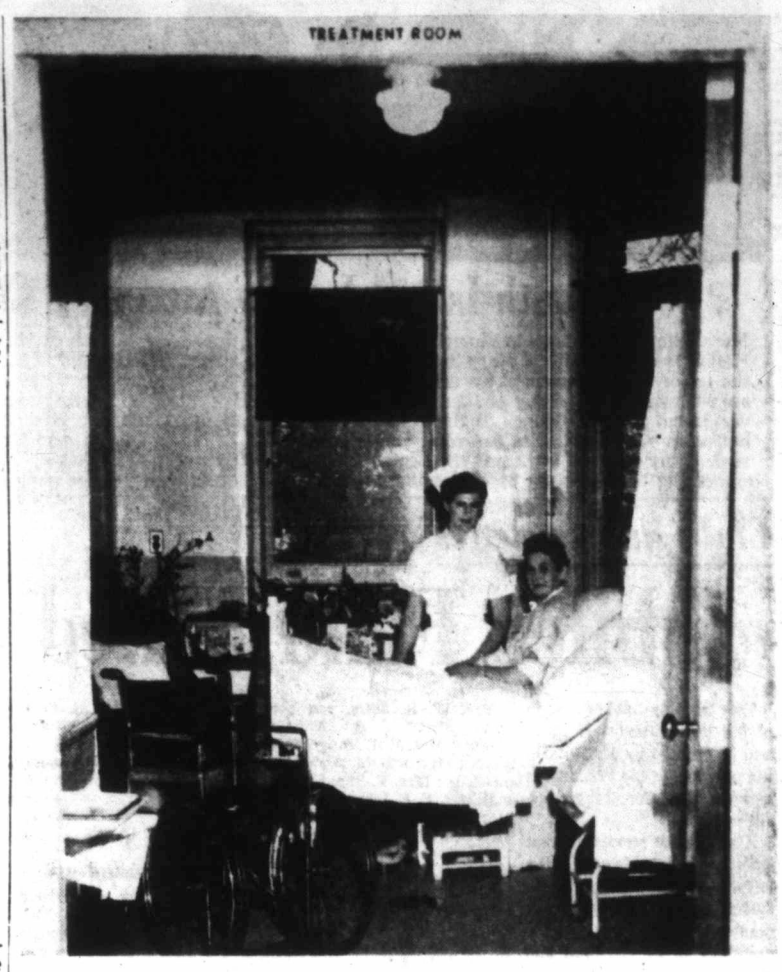
The premier pointed out that the original offer to share in construction of a civic auditorium for Victoria was made before the Capital District Improvement Commission was formed.

He pointed to the beautification work by that commission, the new Government House and the planned new courthouse.

NEW BASE

In answer to another question by Mr. Smith, the premier said the government is studying a new base for the $28 home owners grant and would "advise the House sometime soon, not this session."

That indicated that a home owners grant increase will be one of the election planks of the Social Credit government when the premier gets around to calling a general election.



Makeshift Accomodation in Jubilee

Overcrowding at Royal Jubilee Hospital means patients must be put in makeshift accommodation. Mrs. Edna Dawson, above, is being cared for by Nurse Barbara Singleton in a room normally used for giving treatments to patients from nearby wards. A public drive to raise $410,000 towards the cost of a new wing starts on March 16. Government grants provide another $2,000,000. — (Colonist photo)

I Failed to Live 31 Days on $55

By TED SHACKLEFORD

Yesterday was the last day of the 31-day month I was assigned to live on $55 and . . . I failed.

In actual cash I had $5.90 left after I bought a pound of sausages which I ate for lunch and dinner. To that must be added $3.50 represented by food I had left over —a quarter of a jar of coffee, two-thirds of a pound of tea, two-thirds of a two-pound bag of flour, salt, pepper, a small tin of tomato paste, a 48-ounce tin of tomato juice, and so on.

THEORETICAL CREDIT

This gives me a theoretical credit total of $9.40.

On the debit side, first of all, is $8 for the gas I used to heat my room. I didn't heat the room very much or very often but it is a large room and a bare one.

At the start I allowed for razor blades, but forgot to allow for shaving soap or toothpaste—about 50 cents.

I wore drip-dry shirts which need no ironing and did other laundry in a hand basin, but there must be some allowance made for laundry.

And then there is footwear, dry cleaning, occasional food luxuries which I managed to forego for a month, entertainment and minor drugstore needs.

So, taking all the factors into account, I failed to live within the $55.

ANOTHER ITEM

And there is another item—I was able to live on the food I ate for a month, but I don't know if I could keep my health by eating the same food for much longer. I lost six pounds in the month—all in the last two weeks.

Of course, I am a much better cook now than I was a month ago—I don't burn much anymore — and I have more of an idea about prices and food values.

DO WHAT THEY COULD

A number of individuals have offered to help pensioners in one way or another during this assignment but yesterday a representative of a women's institute phoned and said members would like to do what they could.

"One of the disadvantages of the old-age pensioner is in having to buy in small quantities. This adds to the cost of living.

Couldn't some welfare agency establish a depot that can buy in large quantities and break it down into small amounts, at cost price? I have in mind only staple items, including perhaps cold roast beef, a welcome change from the eternal hamburger. Even cough medicines and liniments which so many older persons need could be established.

SURPLUS FOOD

"What about the surplus food the government is disposing of abroad at a loss? Couldn't some of this be diverted to non-profit organizations such as I have in mind?"

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"I wonder how you would have fared if two of you had been given the same amount and told to pool your resources? Which leads to the thought of what it would be like for them if two, three or four pensioners went in together and pooled their cheques.

It has been telephone calls and letters like that which have made this month worthwhile.

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Some more of the comments from letters:

"What a comfort it would be if anyone who has discarded their hot water bottles for the more modern heating pads, if they would hand them over to Mrs. Harper at the free food stall for distribution. Old folks' circulation is so poor that when the feet are cold their aches are increased tenfold."

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"If two, three or four pensioners with $75 a month went together they might even have enough for the monthly payments on a TV."

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Reporter Lost Six Pounds

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Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford was assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old-age assistance payments live and what their problems are.

Seen in Passing

MRS. ROSE PETHICK

Mrs. Rose Pethick looking up a telephone number. (She is secretary to **George Masters**, administrator of Royal Jubilee Hospital. Her husband **Robert** works for the government. Her hobbies are raising canaries, music and swimming) . . . **Tom Miller** putting in a request for a picture . . . **Lee Murchie** weighing out coffee and talking about foster babies . . . **Const. Gordon Irvine** of the Colwood RCMP detachment preparing to move Monday to his new post at Duncan . . . **Const. W. A. MacKenzie** of the same detachment off to Terrace for more highway patrol work.

Peak Is Past, Flu Is Fleeing

The onslaught of the cold-like flu or the flu-like cold on Victorians is easing off, medical health officer Dr. Elizabeth Mahaffy said yesterday.

"It's pretty well on the wane," Dr. Mahaffy reported. "As of yesterday, most of the schools were back to normal."

Peak of the onslaught, she said, appeared to have come between Feb. 16 and 18, when more than 500 and perhaps 600 schoolchildren, of a Victoria-Esquimalt school population of 11,000, were absent in addition to the normal number of absentees from other causes.

Dr. Mahaffy thought the flu had fairly well run its course among adults, too.

"The teachers had their turns and are back now," she said.

British-Israel Branch Sets Prayer Service

Victoria branch of the British-Israel World Federation will hold a service of prayer, with a short address, Monday at 8 p.m. in the Newstead Hall.

Ostler Named to Bench For Indefinite Period

The provincial cabinet yesterday appointed William Ostler acting police magistrate for an indefinite period of time.

He was already a stipendiary magistrate and a deputy police magistrate for Greater Victoria municipalities.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner indicated his department is still seeking a lawyer to fill the shoes of Magistrate H. C. Hall, who retires today.

Sculpture Discssion

Mr. Ian McNairn, professor of the UBC fine arts department will discuss the "Sources of Modern Sculpture" at 8.15 p.m. Monday in the Victoria College Auditorium.

'Nazi' Nasty Name

Irvine Corbett (SC, Yale) objected in the legislature yesterday to university students calling the premier names like "monster . . . fascist . . . gang of Nazis" and saying they "feared reprisals."

"That is a very small minority of them," Premier Bennett smiled.

Shuffleboard Sites Marked

Construction sites for two shuffleboards in Beacon Hill Park were pegged out yesterday, parks administrator W. H. Warren said.

The boards will be just north of the playground area in the centre of the park.

Bennett Salary Passed

Premier Bennett's salary vote was passed in the legislature yesterday after two days of long and sometimes bitter arguing.

The $41,445 vote includes a $15,000 salary for the premier and $10,500 for an executive assistant.

The premier has been several months without an executive assistant since Ronald Worley resigned, but it is expected he will announce appointment of a new assistant shortly.

Most likely choice is Dan Ekman, former newspaper columnist and now public relations man with Westcoast Transmission.

Cheers Rock 'House'

The government of Prime Minister Kathleen Smith was defeated last night on the issue of old-age pensions.

Leader of the Independents, Wayne Speller proposed a motion that old-age pensions be pegged to the cost of living. The motion received overwhelming support from both sides of the House and the government fell.

Closing of the second annual "mock parliament" of Mount View High School students was marked by ringing cheers as copies of Hansard were thrown up to the roof. Members of the Independent party carried their leader out shoulder high, singing "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

Fast and furious debate during the final session of the three-day parliament was highlighted by an exchange between Independent Leader Speller and Justice Minister Ian MacGilp over capital punishment.

Hero's Medal Dog's Reward

A black Labrador dog, who saved the life of an 11-year-old boy while his friend drowned in a Central Saanich pond, Jan. 10, is to be awarded a medal and certificate of merit by Victoria branch, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

William A. Leach, elected president for a third term at the annual meeting, announced last night that the award is to be made.

Receiving the award will be 1½-year-old Buck, who dragged Hugh Wood, 11, from the pond. Hugh is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Wood, 7022 East Saanich Road.

Hugh's playmate, David Fink, son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Fink, 7036 East Saanich Road, drowned.

Hugh's parents declined to bring the dog and the boy to the meeting for a presentation so the medal and award will be delivered to their home, said Mr. Leach.

After being elected to office for a third term Mr. Leach said it will be his last because he felt the post should be "rotated" among members.

Others elected are: V. L. Eardley-Wilmot, first vice-president; Mrs. Anne McCallum, second vice-president; Douglas Lovegrove, third vice-president; Mrs. R. E. Reading, recording secretary; Cameron Webster, treasurer; Orlando Page, secretary-treasurer.

Committee members are: Mrs. M. H. Aldersmith, H. M. Bigwood, A. E. Cunningham, Mrs. N. Foster, Miss F. N. Ferguson, P. L. Green, M. Harrison, Dr. N. V. James, Mrs. Carol Playfair, Capt. Douglas Prentice, Mrs. M. H. Roffey, Mrs. J. S. Rigby and Mrs. W. B. Williams.

Grants Up 50 Per Cent

Bill Would Boost Aid for Retarded

A bill to increase greatly payments for retarded children's education was introduced in the legislature by Education Minister Leslie Peterson yesterday.

It would provide for a 50-per-cent increase in per-pupil payments to retarded children's associations. The government now allows for retarded children a grant of 100 per cent of the net average cost of educating a normal child, which will become 150 per cent.

The new proposals will also allow school boards to provide schools for retarded children under the same government-shared financing plan through which other schools are built.

The schools may be operated by boards or by retarded children's association under the new plan.

Mr. Peterson described it as a major change in policy.

In effect, retarded children's schools will operate on the same basis as public schools, except for the extra grant and the fact school boards or local associations may operate the schools.

The new plan will become effective April 1.

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Step Ahead Not Enough

News of the government's decision to increase payments by 50 per cent for retarded children's education was received with mixed feelings by Kenneth Lowndes, president of Greater Victoria Retarded Children's Association.

"It's a big step forward, and I'm glad to hear the government has at last accepted its responsibility," said Mr. Lowndes. "But the 50-per-cent increase is still not adequate by any manner of means."

He said grants to normal students are based on costs of providing classes of 30 to 35 pupils, whereas the maximum size for a class of retarded children is 10.

Mr. Lowndes also said he was disappointed no mention was made of government assistance in the "major problem" of providing transport for retarded children. The association asked the government for a grant of $1 per pupil.